

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CYPRUS QUESTION AT COUNCIL OF EUROPE

1. DESPITE DOUBTS ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR AN INDEPENDENT CYPRUS, THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, WHERE CYPRUS HAS BEEN A MEMBER SINCE 1961, HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO TAKE COLLECTIVE ACTION ON THE SITUATION THERE. ON THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SIDE, COUNCIL EFFORTS TO CONTACT THE PRESENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS, WHO IS BY COINCIDENCE CYPRIOT FOREIGN MINISTER POLYS MODINOS, HAVE SO FAR BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. HIS DEPUTY, CYPRIOT PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL SHERIFIS IS LIKEWISE OUT OF REACH. WHILE THIS COMPLICATES MATTERS IT DOES NOT, HOWEVER, RULE OUT SOME KIND OF COUNCIL ACTION BY THE MINISTERS. ON THE PARLIAMENTARY SIDE, ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT VEDOVATO IS IN AFRICA AND ALSO HAS PROVEN TO BE UNREACHABLE. GATHERING ANY SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARIANS, EVEN FROM THE ASSEMBLY S POLITICAL COMMITTEE, WOULD AT ANY RATE BE A DIFFICULT TASK DURING THIS PEAK PERIOD FOR VACATIONS. ANY TIMELY COUNCIL ACTION, IF FORTHCOMING AT ALL, IS THEREFORE MOST LIKELY TO BE TAKEN ON THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SIDE.

2. COUNCIL OFFICIALS HERE ARE WATCHING THE SITUATION AS IT

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DEVELOPS, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS THE POSSIBILITY OF A THREAT

TO THE INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ONE OF THE COUNCIL S MEMBER STATES. STATEMENT BY GREEK GOVERNMENT SUPPORTING INDEPENDENCE OF CYPRUS HAS BEEN NOTED WITH INTEREST HERE, BUT NOT WITHOUT RECOLLECTION AT THE SAME TIME THAT GREECE WAS PRESSED OUT OF THE COUNCIL IN 1970. ACCORDINGLY, SHOULD SUCH A THREAT MATERIALIZE, THE COUNCIL S COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS COULD BE CONVENED FOR AN EMERGENCY MEETING BY THE DANISH VICE CHAIRMAN, FOREIGN MINISTER A. ROSENSTAND HANSEN. SHOULD A NEW GOVERNMENT IN CYPRUS SEND ITS REPRESENTATIVE TO THE COUNCIL AT THAT POINT, HIS ACCEPTANCE AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE DEPENDENT UPON RECOGNITION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT BY OTHER MEMBER GOVERNMENTS ACTING OUTSIDE THE COUNCIL CONTEXT. IN ANY EVENT WHAT KIND OF SPECIFIC ACTION THE MINISTERS WOULD TAKE IS NOT CLEAR AT THIS POINT.

3. BESIDES CONSIDERATION OF THE SITUATION IN THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS, COUNCIL INTERVENTION IN THE QUESTION MIGHT ALSO TAKE THE FORM OF A LEGAL CASE ARISING OUT OF THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THIS APPROACH, HOWEVER, WOULD TAKE TIME, AND UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WOULD HAVE TO BE BROUGHT BY ANOTHER MEMBER GOVERNMENT RATHER THAN BY AN INDIVIDUAL.

4. MEANTIME, IN THE ABSENCE OF OTHER COUNCIL ACTION, OUTGOING COUNCIL SECRETARY GENERAL LUJO TONCIC-SORINJ IN A JULY 16 PRESS DECLARATION UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF OBSERVING EXISTING AGREEMENTS. NOTING THAT MANY FEATURES OF THE LONDON AND ZURICH AGREEMENTS OF 1959, COVERING CYPRUS, ORIGINATED IN THE COUNCIL, HE ALSO CALLED FOR CONTINUING RESPECT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS GUARANTEED BY THE TWO AGREEMENTS, AS WELL AS BY THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS.
VEALE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ATHENS, NICOSIA, ANKARA.

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